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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Adel Abdellatif (Egypt), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.28

Report of the Committee on Development Planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/206 of 20 December 1991 on the report of the Committee for Development Planning and criteria for identifying the least developed countries,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council decision 1997/223 of 18 July 1997 concerning the recommendation of the Committee for Development Planning that Vanuatu be graduated from the list of the least developed countries,

Taking note also of Economic and Social Council decision 1997/223, subparagraph (b) of 18 July 1997;

Noting the content of the letter of the Prime Minister of Vanuatu[1] stating the reasons advanced to support his position that the review of Vanuatu's status should be deferred to the year 2000,

[1] A/C.2/52/5, annex, appendix.

Noting further the decision of the Committee for Development Planning,[2] in accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/183 of 11 February 1997, to examine as part of its work programme for 1997 to 1998, the report to be prepared by the Secretary-General on the vulnerability index and to consider the usefulness of such an index as a criterion for the designation of the least developed countries in its examination of issues related to improvements to the criteria and methodology for the designation of the least developed countries,

Taking into account statements made by several delegations during the debate on the report of the Economic and Social Council at the meetings of the Second Committee of the General Assembly on 11 November 1997,

1. Reaffirms paragraphs 4 and 5 of its resolution 46/206 relating to transitional arrangements;

2. Welcomes the convening of Working Group III of the Committee for Development Planning in New York from 17 to 19 December 1997 to review the results of the technical work and the outcome of the expert group meeting, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/183;

3. Decides to postpone its consideration of Economic and Social Council decision 1997/223, subparagraph (a), in consideration of the views and recommendations to be submitted by the Committee for Development Planning to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session through the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with paragraphs 9 and 10 of resolution 51/183, on the usefulness of the vulnerability index as a criterion for the designation of the least developed countries, and, without prejudice to the full development and examination of the vulnerability index, its potential application in assessing the graduation of Vanuatu, a small island developing State, from the list of the least developed countries, and to take a decision accordingly.

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[2] Recognizing, without prejudice, the Economic and Social Council review of its subsidiary bodies, as initiated in General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996, bearing in mind other relevant General Assembly resolutions.